

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a heating roller, comprising:
drawing a core of hollow cylinder form by engaging an outer circumference surface of the hollow cylinder form with a ring-shaped member, moving the ring-shaped member and the hollow cylinder form relative to one another in a longitudinal direction of the hollow cylinder form, and changing a diameter of the ring-shaped member during the relative movement; and

cutting an outer circumference surface of the core;

wherein a thickness of the core is greater in a center portion thereof than in end portions thereof, and

~~wherein the core is provided with bearings on the outer circumference surface thereof~~
wherein in the drawing step, the core is drawn such that an inside diameter of the core is smaller in the center portion thereof than in the both end portions thereof.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of producing a heating roller of claim 1, wherein in the cutting step, the core is cut such that an outside diameter of the core is substantially constant in a shaft direction of the core.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method of producing a heating roller of claim 1,
~~comprising:~~

~~drawing a core of hollow cylinder form; and~~

~~cutting an outer circumference surface of the core;~~

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~~wherein a thickness of the core is greater in a center portion thereof than in end portions thereof;~~

wherein in the cutting step, the core is cut such that an outside diameter of the core is smaller in the center portion thereof than in the end portions thereof; and

~~wherein the core is provided with bearings on the outer circumference surface thereof.~~

5.-14. (Canceled)